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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
MAREK NARUSZEWICZ : EXAMINER: MARX, I.  
SERIAL NO: 09/787,893 :  
FILED: APRIL 26, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1651  
FOR: REDUCTION OF OXIDATIVE :  
STRESS FACTORS

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated August 19, 2002, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration in light of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

--11. (Twice Amended) A method of reducing a level of at least one oxidative stress factor in the blood of a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof of *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v, wherein the level of the at least one oxidative stress factor is reduced compared to the level of the at least one oxidative stress factor in the absence of *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v.